DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 208 800 IR 009 389

AUTHOR Bankole, Beatrice S.
TITLE The Use of the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) in Nigeria.
PUB DATE Aug 80
NOTE 20p.; Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (Manila, Philippines, August 18-23, 1980).

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Alphabets; *Cataloging; Cultural Differences; Developing Nations; *International Programs; Languages; *Library Catalogs; *Library Standards; Publishing Industry; Questionnaires
IDENTIFIERS *International Standard Bibliographic Description; *Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Implementation of ISBD in Nigeria has successfully overcome problems with the diversities of 200 ethnic groups, 400 languages and dialects (in addition to English as the official language), arabic and roman alphabets, and the interface of two major religious systems--Islam and Christianity. This paper describes the adoption and uses of the ISBDs in some of the 300 major libraries in Nigeria, the problems experienced, and the reasons for non-adoption by other libraries. The role of the Nigerian National Library is explored with respect to the development and acquisition of ISBD information, the application of ISBD to the national bibliography, and the sponsorship of workshops and seminars. Specific problems encountered were acquisition of typewriters with special typefaces, punctuation signs, arrangement of entries, the use of arabic script, Nigerian variants of the roman alphabet, and the style and conventions of the Nigerian publishing and printing industry. The paper concludes with recommendations that bibliographic problems and peculiarities of non-western book production styles be included in the IFLA ISBD manual, and that ISBDs be simpler and briefer. A 5-item bibliography and a questionnaire on the use of ISBD are included. (RAA)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED208800

IFLA General Conference 1980

Division: Bibliographic Control

Section: Cataloguing

63/CAT/3E

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

THE USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (ISBD) IN NIGERIA

by

Beatrice S. BANKOLE (Mrs.)
Chief, Bibliographic Services Division
National Library of Nigeria
Lagos, Nigeria.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

A.L. van Wesemael

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IR009389

THE USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (ISBD) IN NIGERIA

Introduction

In describing the use of the ISBDs in Nigeria and the problems experienced, it is important to give a brief description of Nigeria, its peoples, language and educational institutions. Nigeria is made up of over 200 ethnic groups which are enriched with about 400 languages and dialects. Only 15% of these languages have so far been written or used in publications. Because of its colonial history, English language has become the official language and the widest medium of communication. Also as a result of the Islamic religious influence, Arabic scripts are used especially in the Northern parts of the country. Moreover, some dialects have letters which are variants of the regular Roman alphabet but which appear in the form of c, e, and v etc reversed or turned upside down. As will be explained later in this paper, these differences in script and language pose considerable problems.

Nigeria now enjoys a Federal and Presidential System of government. With a population of over eighty million, she is divided into 19 States with a Central Government. There are more than 300 major libraries in Nigeria; 35 of which are academic libraries, 19 state libraries and 56 special libraries. Of course there is a national library co-ordinating the bibliographic activities of these libraries. This paper describes the adoption and the use of the ISBDs in some of this libraries, the problems experienced and the reasons for non adoption by other libraries.

Efforts of the National Library of Nigeria.

In order to have a clear understanding of the background, development and the history of the use of the ISBD in Nigeria, it is

also important to mention the role and the efforts of the National Library of Nigeria. This role can be viewed from the following angles:-

(i) Participation in the meetings of the various IFLA Working Groups on ISBD.

(ii) Application of the ISBD to the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN).

(iii) Sponsorship of Workshops and Seminars in ISBD.

(i) The National Library of Nigeria was represented in some of the International meetings where major decisions on ISBD were taken. For example the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts (IMCE) held in Copenhagen in 1969, which is generally regarded as the origin for the IFLA programme of ISBDs, was attended by the Director of the National Library of Nigeria and other Nigerians. The National Library also sent two delegates to the revision meetings on ISBD(S) held in Paris in October, 1975. She has also contributed to some decisions on ISBD through her commets and recommednations arising from her study of the draft documents on the various ISBDs. Also in 1975 three members of the National Library staff, spent one month each in succession on attachment programme in the Bibliographic Services Division of the British Library. The practical experience in the application of the ISBD. This experience has been consequently transferred to the description of the entries in the National Bibliography of Nigeria.

(ii) The National Library of Nigeria introduced ISBD(M) & (S) to the description of the entries in the National Bibliography of

Nigeria (NBN) in January 1975. With the co-operation of the Director of the IFLA UBC Office in London, copies of the monthly issues of the NBN were sent to the UBC Office for comment during the early months of our adoption of the ISBD. This was to ensure that the ISBD was interpreted correctly and that the right description was given. It is pleasing to note that the developments since 1975 have brought the NBN both in the quality of the descriptions and in the arrangement of the entries closer in rank to the well developed national bibliographies. For example a classified arrangement like that of the British National Bibliography (BNB) was introduced in January 1976. The monthly issues and the cumulations since then are arranged in classified subject sequence with author/ title and series index. In short the presentation of the NBN at present meets all the recommendations of the "International Congress on National Bibliographies", held in Paris in September, 1977.

(iii) Another area where the efforts of the National Library of Nigeria have been most outstanding is in the organisation and sponsorship of Workshops and Seminars on ISBD. In April 1975, the National Library of Nigeria, in collaboration with the Department of Library Studies of the University of Ibadan organised a seminar/workshop to introduce ISBD to librarians in Nigeria, and to practising librarians in some countries in Afica, especially in the English-speaking areas. The invitation was not extended to the French speaking countries in Africa because of lack, at that time, of "facilities for conducting bilingual meetings". Although it was recognised

that it was only mandatory on the National Library, where the National Bibliography was produced, to adopt and apply the ISBD, yet it was felt that the knowledge of the ISBD, an internationally accepted standard, "should not be confined to the National Library" but be extended and "shared with other practising librarians". Therefore Cataloguers and bibliographers from leading institutions and libraries in Nigeria were invited to participate in the Seminar/Workshop. On the whole six African countries were represented at the seminar. These were:- Nigeria, with forty-six participants; Ghana, Liberia and Tanzania sent one participant each. There were fifty-five registered participants with about forty or more students from the Library School, attending as observers. The elements of both the ISBD(M) and ISBD(S) were discussed during the working sessions with practical demonstrations. It is remarkable that the forum was also used to introduce another important international standard for bibliographic control, ISBN (International Standard Book Number). It is also remarkable that some of the African countries represented at the Ibadan Seminar in 1975 afterwards adopted and applied the ISBD to their national bibliographies. For example the delegates from Ghana on their arrival home, organised a national seminar in Ghana on ISBD. Among the resolutions passed during the workshop were the recommendation of the ISBD for adoption by Nigerian Libraries and the encouragement of Nigerian publishers to register for the ISBN and to follow international standards in the preparation of their publications.

Moreover, in January, 1978, the National Library of Nigeria organised the first Unesco Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Africa in Lagos. This seminar was one of a series of regional seminars sponsored by Unesco in fulfilment of the recommendations of the "International Congress on National Bibliographies". Such seminars were aimed at improving the standards of national bibliographies, in order to achieve an effective national bibliographic control for universal bibliograhphic control (UBC). Participation at the Seminar was limited to delegates from African countries already producing independent national bibliographies. Participants came from both the English and the French speaking countries of Africa. It is also noteworthy that facilities for simultaneous translation in French and English were adequately provided at the seminar. Seventeen African countries were represented at the seminar, namely: - Anglola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, with one delegate each; Nigeria with twenty five delegates; Senegal with two delegates, Sierra Leone, Tanzania with two delegates, Togo, Uganda and Zambia with one delegate each. On the whole there were forty registered participants from all the African countries.

The Seminar focussed on the main international standards for bibliographic control, namely ISBD, ISDS (International Serial Data System, ISSN and ISBN.

As this was a Unesco Seminar organised by the National Library of Nigeria, Unesco sponsored the following experts as consultants to the seminar: - Mrs. Dorothy Anderson, Director of

the IFLA Office for UBC, London, as consultant on ISBD and Mrs. Maire Rosenbaum, Director, International Serial Data System Paris, a consultant on ISDS; assisted by Mr. Ross Boume, Director, U.K. National Serials Data Centre and Mr. Atanga Owona, of the ISDS in Paris respectively.

As was evident during this seminar, Nigeria since 1975 had achieved considerable progress in the development and establishment of bibliographic centres for effective national bibliographic control. For example the Nigerian National Serials Data Centre was established in April 1976, while the Nigerian ISBN Agency was also established in 1977. Through these centres, both monographic and serial publications in Nigeria are registered and assigned ISBN and ISSN. So far about one hundred and fifty (150) Nigerian publishers have been assigned ISBN, while over five hundred (500) new Nigerian serial titles have also been registered.

The 1978 Unesco Seminar was very important in the advancement of the use of ISBD in Nigeria, because it afforded an opportunity once more to practising librarians in Nigeria to listen to the experts and the proponents of the ISBD describe and demonstrate its application and use. It is remarkable that within four years, Nigerian Librarians had a rare opportunity of hosting and participating in two international seminars on ISBD.

Application of the ISBD in Nigerian Libraries

Considering the developments described above one may ask, what percentage of Nigerian libraries, now use the ISBD?. In preparation for this paper, questionnaires were sent to major libraries in Nigeria (a copy of the questionnaire is attached). The questionnaires were sent to about two hundred (200) libraries. Only 20% of the libraries responded. 75% of the libraries which responded confirmed that they have

been using the ISBD for the past four to five years.

Problems encountered in the use of the ISBD

The problems experienced by these libraries range form the problems with the typewriter; the punctuation signs; arrangement of the areas; Arabic Scripts and the presence in some Nigerian languages of certain letters which are variations of the regular roman alphabet.

Typing Problem

One of the major problems experienced by most libraries is the difficulty of getting the typewriters containing the necessary keys for the symbols and punctuation signs recommended for ISBD. Most typewriters used in the libraries do not possess the "necessary keys for square brackets, the Naira, Pound or Dollar signs:. Some libraries have tried to solve this problem by using "round brackets" instead of square brackets. This solution does not seem right as the entries thus created will be defective and will not give the correct interpretation which the different signs in the ISBD are supposed to give. Other Libraries complained that it took their "typists quite some time to get used to the punctuation marks". The problem of having the required keys installed on the typewriter and of training typists can be solved by consulting with the National Library of Nigeria, which has installed the appropriate ISBD punctuation signs on her typewriters. Also, as part of National Library's assistance to other libraries, many Typists have been trained in the typing of ISBD entries.

Problem of Punctuation

Some libraries, especially the academic libraries have adapted the ISBD punctuation signs, which the libraries describe as "rather unwieldy and wasteful of catalogue card space". In place of the recommeded signs, one particulary library only uses a pattern comprising full stop(.); comma(,); colon(:) and semi-colon(;). This

library has strongly advocated for the simplification of the punctuation signs of the ISBD along the lines it has adopted. Below is a sample entry by the library.

HX ·
110.5 ALEXANDER, Robret Jackson, 1918 -
.A6 Trotskyism in Latin America (by) Robert
A76 J. Alexander. Standford, Calif., Hoover
Institution Press, Standford University, 1973.
xi, 303p. 24cm. (Hoover Institution publications,
119).

Bibliography: p. 269 - 279.

1. Communism - Latin America. i. Title.
ii. Series.

ISBN: 0-8179-1191

This entry has actually removed an important feature of the ISBD, which makes the ISBD entries understadable accross language barriers. I wonder if this library can say it is using the ISBD. Another librarian from a College of Technology also complained about the recommended punctuations which he said "are too many and if all of them are used, they will make the catalogue cards or the bibliographic description appear as a compilation of punctuation signs and not as a sign for conveying information". It is important to note that one of the characteristic features of the ISBD is its "distinctive punctuation, which introduces and in some cases encloses each area and element". Although libraries other than the National Bibliographic Agency may select the information they require and use only those areas and elements necessary, yet "the ISBD order and punctuation" must be followed. Then can they say they are using the ISBD descriptions. The punctuation in ISBD, though may appear artificial and "unwieldy", has the advantage of helping the patient user to identify readily

particular elements in a record without necessarily understanding the language of the record. Moreover, with the exception of the square brackets, most of the prescribed punctuation symbols are those commonly found on typewriters and keyboards for the roman script.

Arrangement of the entries

Since the ISBD does not include tracings in the arrangement of the elements of description, some librarians face the problem of where to put the added entries in the arrangement. They wonder whether to put the tracings after the notes or after ISBN/Price statement. In some libraries the tracings come after the notes, while the ISBN/Price statementis placed at the end of the description. Another library is also worried about the position of the series area. The library has suggested placing the series area under the collation as illustrated in this example in order to make it "strike the eye" -

e.g.
"IV; 26p.
(Samaru conference paper; no. 20)
Paper presented at the 13th Annual conference ..."

Of course "when for aesthetic reasons, paragraphing, indentation or special typography is preferred for displaying particular areas in the description, preceding punctuation for each area (i.e. 'point, space, dash, space) may be omitted as practised by the U.S. Library of Congress and followed in the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN).

Arabic Scripts and certain symbols in some Nigerian languages

Nigeria has a predominant muslim population, especially in the Northern parts of the country. The academic libraries in this area experience problems in the use of ISBD with arabic scripts due to the opposing directions of the punctuation signs in the ISBD and the arabic scripts. While the punctaion signs of the ISBD are

from left to right the arabic script is from right to left.

Since 1977 consideration must have been given to some of the recommendations made by D.E. Wijasuriya in his paper on "ISBD application to Asian national bibliographies:, published in the Unesco bulletin for Libraries, vol. XXXI, no. 4, July - August, 1977. In the paper it was suggested that the "diagonal slash (/) counld well have been a vertical slash (I), just as the full stop, space, dash, space (. -) could well have been merely a space, dash, space (-)". Since the prescribed punctuation in the ISBD could be confused with some characters in the arabic script, it is necessary to devise other punctuation symbols, which are distinct from the characters of arabic script. Consequently such changes will make the ISBD a more effective international standard, applicable to all types of scripts any where in the world,

Problems connected with Publishing in Nigeria

Most of the problems experienced in the application of the ISBD to the national bibliography of Nigeria, relate to the publishing style and conventions in Nigeria. Although the Nigerian publishing and printing industry is developing and striving to meet international standards, yet publications by some publishers, especially government printers, do not contain some of the data required for making a comprehensive bibliographic description. It is common to find publications with no title pages. The publisher, the place and date of publication are generally misssing from the publications. Also, there is the problem of not finding the correct date from the "principal sources of information" prescribed for certain areas of the ISBD. For example, the information for which the title page is the principal source of information is not always found on the title page. A

publication may contain many titles which are found in different parts of the publication. Hence the problem of deciding which is the title proper, the sub-title or other title information. The 'colophon' for instance is even more useful in some Nigerian publications than title page, since it may contain the necessary data normally meant for title pages.

Moreover most government printers only use a code at the back-cover of each of their publications indicating the date of publication and the number of copies printed. As the National Library handles many government publications, there is the problem of enclosing the dates in square brackets, as prescribed in the ISBD(M), because they are not taken from the "principal source of information". Consequently most of the entries in the NBN are cluttered up with square brackets. Also since the National Library has to provide full bibliographic description for a "definitive record of each publication" issued in Nigeria, alot of time and efforts are expended in searching for the required information. Here is an example of a code from the back cover of a government publication:-

"FGP 1764/976/500,000" which means Federal Government Printer; job code 1764; published in September 1976; 500,000 copies printed.

The publication and distribution information, is sometimes missing from some publications. In such cases the author is recorded as the publisher, but when the address of the author is not known, the problem of the place and date of publication remains unsolved.

Some entries in the National Bibliography of Nigeria (NBN) do not include the eighth area of description recommended for the ISBD(M) i.e. the "International Standard Book Number, (ISBN) and terms

of availability or price area", because most Nigerian publishers do not use ISBN and may not indicate price on their publications. However with many Nigerian publishers registering for ISBN, it is hoped that more publications will include the ISBN. Although the principal source of information for the price is 'anywhere' , yet the inherent problems in our communication system make it difficult to get accross to publishers or book sellers asking for the price of their publications.

Other problems which are not inherent in the ISBD texts are the shortage of staff; financial constraints and difficulties in purchasing the texts of the ISBDs. These for instance are some of the problems which have hindered the adoption of ISBD by some libraries. For examples a few libraries have complained that with their limited funds and shortage of professional staff, they would rather, in the maintime, concentrate on clearing their backlogs and leave the adoption of the ISBD to a later date. These libraries cannot afford the introduction of "any new procedures that will inevitably slow down" their cataloguing. The fact that the ISBD texts are not readily available for purchase from bookshops in Nigeria is another reason preventing the adoption of the ISBD by some libraries. One of the major libraries also raised a fundamental question about the relationship between the ISBD and the AACR2. The librarian asked - "why a cataloguer should use the ISBD when she has the AACR2?", especially in a situation where funds are limited. This enquiry has highlighted the thinking in the Bibliographic Services Division of the National Library of Nigeria namely that the part I of the AACR2 (which deals with description) and the various ISBDs, are essentially interchangeable, and that the AACR2 will hold more attraction for the Nigerian Cataloguer for reasons of its added provisions on access points (Part II). There is no doubt that the

Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of the AACR (JSCAACR) was committed to using the ISBDs in the revised edition of the AACR, in order to make the new AACR as universally acceptable as the ISBDs.

However, these and other relevant points will be discussed later this year at a Seminar/Workshop on the AACR2, to be organised by the National Library of Nigeria for the Chief Cataloguers in Nigerian Libraries before the adoption of the AACR2, in 1981. During the Workshop, certain characteristic features of both the AACR2 and the ISBD will be highlighted and compared. There the question of whether the Nigerian cataloguer can depend largely on the AACR2 both for description and for choice of access points, will be fully discussed.

Some Solutions to the Problems of Publishing in Nigeria

One of the resolutions adopted at one of our workshops on ISBD was to encourage publishers to follow international standards in their book production, with particular reference to title-page information and other bibliographic data necessary for the identification of their publications. The National Library has held discussions with the Nigerian Publishers Association on the importance of international standards for book production. The Nigerian Standards Organisation is involved and copies of the "150 Recommendation, R. 1086 - Title-leaves of a Book", have been distributed to most publishers. This is an important development, which, it is hoped will help to solve some of the problems encountered in cataloguing local publications.

The prospects for the book industry in Nigeria are also bright. The problems facing the publishers are being considered at government levels, and solutions to them are being discussed. At a recent meeting held between the Federal Ministry of Education and the Nigerian Publishers Association the future of publishing in Nigeria was discussed.

Among other things the Federal Ministry promised to promote the publishing industry in Nigeria by expanding the existing infrastructure, and by increasing the number of trained personnel for printing. The Ministry further promised to assist the publishers in their efforts to meet international standards. In order to further ensure the development of the publishing industry in Nigeria, the Nigerian Book Development Council, which some publishers have described as "a crippled child which may never be able to walk" will be officially launched in December 1980. This is indeed encouraging. Once the Nigerian publications are improved and developed to meet international standards, the application of the ISBD, especially to the entries in the NBN will be an easy task.

Recommendations and Suggestions

The present structure of the ISBD as a descriptive manual is commendable, and highly recommended for international bibliographic data exchange among national bibliographic agencies. Nevertheless there is need for the provision of more illustrative examples showing patterns of publishing practice throughout the world. The present effort by IFLA UBC Office to compile a manual on the ISBDs, highlighting the bibliographic problems and peculiarities inherent in the book production styles of most non-Western countries is highly commendable indeed. This manual, when published, will be of great assistance to cataloguers from these countries who have hitherto grappled with these problems in isolation.

Moreover, there is need to further indicate in an unambiguous way that some elements are essential and that records following the ISBD must follow those elements. A revised edition of the ISBD should include illustrative examples for a minimum description needed for identification. Since libraries other than the bibliographic agencies

are expected to adopt the ISBDs, it has become necessary to devise simpler and briefer ISBDs to meet the needs of these libraries, which require just finding tools for their stock. Of course the three levels of description in the AACR2 attempt to provide alternative uniform description. Perhaps there is need to revise the punctuation symbols in the ISBD in relation to some characteristics of non arabic scripts, in order to evolve a single set of punctuation applicable to all scripts and languages.

In cases where the information for an area of description is not found, the available information should be recorded as they are, following the ISBD order of elements. Since the major problem experienced by most developing countries arise from insufficient data on their publications, the national bibliographic agencies in those countries should make deliberate efforts to educate their publishers to meet interantional standards for book production. The objective of standardization is to encourage and maintain quality in the area for which the standards are devised. Therefore it is very important especially for the developing countries to strive to make their publications meet the requirements of the ISBD, rather than demand the simplification of the ISBD to the level of publishing in most developing countries.

However in certain publishing areas where the colophon performs the functions of a title page, information on it should be recorded as from the tilte page.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the ISBD programme, in whatever aspect it is considered, has been a successful endeavour; not only because the ISBDs have been adopted in many national bibliographies, in Africa,

America, Asia, Australia and Europe, but mainly because it has provided an effective solution to some of the "problems of bibliographic incompatibilities" which have previously hindered the exchange of bibliographic records. Therefore a major achievement in the international efforts towards the standardization of cataloguing has been the successful implementation of the ISBD programme. We all know the various advantages that can be derived from following international standards in cataloguing. Some of the advantages have been summarised in three words - 'clarity, exchage and economy'. Added to these are the objectives of the UBC and the attainment of the universal availability of publications (UAP), which is also the ultimate aim of UBC.

Moreover, an important advantage derived from the use of ISBD in Nigeria, is the revealing of the flaws and the defects in the standard of publihsing in Nigeria. Consequently, as mentioned above, a programme for "informing and educating the Nigerian publisher" is already started. Hopefully, as the standard of publishing improves to meet international standards, most of the problems now experienced in the application of ISBD to Nigerian publications will be a thing of the past. Then the values and the advantages, of the ISBD as an effective medium of bibliographic communication both as printed catalogues or in machine readable tapes will be further appreciated. Therefore, as the publishing industry advances in Nigeria, librarians and bibliographers look forward to the time, not too distant, when they shall open the title pages of their publications and find not only the title, the statement of responsibility, edition and the publication and distribution information, but also the proper form of the authors' names clearly indicating the "Main Access Points".

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my appreciation and sincere thanks to all my colleagues in Nigerian libraries, who responded to my questionnaire on the "use of ISBD in Nigeria".

Bibliography

1. Aje, S. B. "ISBD: application to African national bibliographies" Unesco bulletin for libraries, Vol. XXXI, No. 4, July - August 1977 pages 216 - 222.

2. Anderson, Dorothy, "International bibliographic standards and UBC in relation to developing countries", paper presented at the Unesco Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control, ISBD/ISDS, Lagos, 30th January to 3rd February, 1978.

3. ---- The ISBDs, paper presented at the second session of the Unesco Conference on Bibliographic Control in Africa, Dakar, Senegal 19th - 23rd March, 1979.

4. Anglo-American cataloguing rules, - 2nd ed. - London: The Library Association, 1978.

5. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. ISSD(M), London: IFLA International Office for UBC, 1978.

our ref.

your ref.

national library of nigeria
4 wesley street, p.m.b.12626 lagos, nigeria
telegrams and cables biblios lagos
tel: 56590, 56591, 56547. 20041

28th February, 1980

Dear Colleague,

THE USE OF THE ISBD IN NIGERIA

The IFLA Section on Cataloguing during the IFLA Conference in August 1980 will deal with the application of the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) in the developing countries and in countries using non-roman scripts.

2. The National Library of Nigeria has been asked to prepare a paper describing the use of the ISBD in Nigeria, high lighting problems identified and the solutions applied to such problems.

3. If you have adopted the ISBD in your library or if you are familiar with the ISBD, please send us a short description of your experience by answering the following questions -

(i) When did you start using:

ISBD (M) for monographs?

ISBD (S) for serials?

ISBD (CM) for Catographic Materials?

ISBD (NBM) for Non-Book Materials?

(ii) What problems have you experienced and how have you solved them?

(iii) What suggestions do you have for improvement on the present format of the ISBD?

(iv) From the point of view of your readers, do you think the ISBD entries in your catalogues i.e. the punctuation signs, have been helpful or otherwise?

(v) If you have not adopted the ISBD, why and what are your constraints?

4. Please send your reply to the undersigned before April 18, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

20